

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (presently amended): A surgical sponge system, comprising:
 - a) a surgical sponge having a pocket for receiving a remotely detectable electronic marker;
 - b) a flap for closing said pocket, said flap having at least one side hingedly attached to said surgical sponge;
 - c) fastening means for closing and securing said flap to said surgical sponge in the closed position, wherein said fastening means comprises a first snap in said flap and a second snap in said sponge, said first and second snaps being mutually engageable; and
 - d) a remotely detectable electronic marker inserted within said flap.
2. (original): A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said sponge has at least one corner and said pocket is positioned proximate said corner of said sponge.
3. (original): A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said sponge has at least one edge and said pocket is positioned proximate said edge of said sponge.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (presently amended): A surgical sponge system, comprising:

a) a surgical sponge having a pocket for receiving a remotely detectable electronic marker;

b) a flap for closing said pocket, said flap having at least one side hingedly attached to said surgical sponge;

~~7.c)~~ fastening means for closing and securing said flap to said surgical sponge in the closed position,

~~e)~~ ~~A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1,~~ wherein said fastening means comprises a hook and loop fastening system having a hook portion and a loop portion, one of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said flap and the other of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said sponge, said hook portion and said loop portion being positioned for mutual engagement; and

d) a remotely detectable electronic marker inserted within said flap.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (presently amended): A surgical sponge system, comprising:

a) a surgical sponge;

b) a remotely detectable, magnetomechanically resonant electronic marker;
and

c) attachment means for attaching said marker to a surface of said surgical sponge, wherein said attachment means comprises a hook and loop fastening system comprising a hook portion and a loop portion, one of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said marker and the

other of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said surgical sponge.

11. (original): A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said sponge has at least one corner and said marker is attached proximate said corner.
12. (original): A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said sponge has at least one edge and said marker is attached proximate said edge.
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (canceled)
20. (canceled)
21. (canceled)
22. (canceled)
23. (canceled)
24. (canceled)
25. (canceled)
26. (canceled)
27. (canceled)